

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

Reference is made to commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [_____] 10/823,453 filed on April 13, 2004 ~~herewith~~ entitled: CONTAINER FOR INHIBITING MICROBIAL GROWTH IN LIQUID NUTRIENTS by David L. Patton, Joseph F. Bringley, Richard W. Wien, John M. Pochan, Yannick J. F. Lerat(~~docket 87472~~); U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [_____] 10/823,446 filed on April 13, 2004 ~~herewith~~ entitled: USE OF DERIVATIZED NANOPARTICLES TO MINIMIZE GROWTH OF MICRO-ORGANISMS IN HOT FILLED DRINKS by Richard W. Wien, David L. Patton, Joseph F. Bringley, Yannick J. F. Lerat (docket 87471); U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [_____] 10/822,945 filed April 13, 2004 ~~herewith~~ entitled: ARTICLE FOR INHIBITING MICROBIAL GROWTH IN PHYSIOLOGICAL FLUIDS by Joseph F. Bringley, David L. Patton, Richard W. Wien, Yannick J. F. Lerat(~~docket 87833~~); U.s. Patent Application Serial No. [_____] 10/822,940 filed April 13, 2004 ~~herewith~~ entitled: DERIVATIZED NANOPARTICLES COMPRISING METAL-ION SEQUESTRAINT by Joseph F. Bringley(~~docket 87428~~); and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [_____] 10/822,929 filed April 13, 2004 ~~herewith~~ entitled: COMPOSITION OF MATTER COMPRISING POLYMER AND DERIVATIZED NANOPARTICLES by Joseph F. Bringley, Richard W. Wien, Richard L. Parton;~~(DOCKET 87708)~~, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [_____] 10/822,939 filed April 13, 2004 ~~herewith~~ entitled: COMPOSITION COMPRISING INTERCALATED METAL-ION SEQUESTRANTS by Joseph F. Bringley, David L. Patton, Richard W. Wien;~~(docket 87765)~~ the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Amendments to/Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of removing a selected metal-ion from a solution, comprising the steps of;
 - a. providing a container for holding a liquid, said container comprising ~~having~~ an internal surface having a metal-ion sequestering agent immobilized in ~~provided on~~ at least a portion of said internal surface for removing a designated metal-ion ~~metal-ions~~ from said liquid;
 - b. filling said container with said liquid in an open environment;
 - c. closing said container with said liquid contained therein;
said metal-ion sequestering agent removing said designated metal-ion
from said liquid; and
 - d. shipping said container for use of said liquid without any further processing of said container containing said liquid.
2. **(Canceled)**
3. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein said container comprises a bottle and cap assembly.
4. **(Original)** A method according to claim 3 wherein said bottle is made of a plastic material.
5. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 3 wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent is provided on the entire internal surface of said bottle.
6. **(Original)** A method according to claim 3 wherein said bottle is made of a material that includes said metal-ion sequestering agent.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 3 + wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent is provided on the internal surface of said cap.

8. **(Original)** A method according to claim 1 wherein said liquid has a pH equal to or greater than about 3.

9. **(Original)** A method according to claim 1 wherein said liquid has a pH equal to or greater than about 4.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 1 wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent is ~~immobilized on the surface(s) of said container and~~ has a stability constant greater than 10^{10} with iron (III).

11. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 1 wherein said sequestering agent is ~~immobilized on the surface(s) of said container and~~ has a high-affinity for biologically important metal-ions ~~such as~~ Mn, Zn, Cu and Fe.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 1 wherein said sequestering agent is ~~immobilized on the surface(s) of said container and~~ has a high-selectivity for biologically important metal-ions ~~such as~~ Mn, Zn, Cu and Fe.

13. **(Previously Amended)** A method according to claim 1 wherein said sequestering agent has a high-selectivity for certain metal-ions but a low-affinity for at least one other ion.

14. **(Previously Amended)** A method according to claim 13 wherein said certain metal-ions comprises Mn, Zn, Cu and Fe and said other at least one ion comprises calcium.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 1 wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent is ~~immobilized on the surface(s) of said container and~~ has a stability constant greater than 10^{20} with iron (III).

16. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 1 wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent ~~is immobilized on the surface(s) of said container and~~ has a stability constant greater than 10^{30} with iron (III).

17. **(Previously Amended)** A method according to claim 1 wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent comprises derivatized nanoparticles comprising inorganic nanoparticles having an attached metal-ion sequestrant, wherein said inorganic nanoparticles have an average particle size of less than 200 nm and the derivatized nanoparticles have a stability constant greater than 10^{10} with iron (III).

18. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 1 wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent is immobilized in a polymeric layer, and the polymeric layer contacts said liquid ~~the fluid contained therein~~.

19 –37. **(Canceled)**

38. **(New)** A method according to claim 1, wherein said container further comprises a barrier layer between the metal-ion sequestering agent and the liquid for permitting water to pass therethrough and for blocking microorganisms from passing therethrough.

39. **(New)** A container for holding a liquid, the container comprising:
an internal layer having a metal-ion sequestering agent immobilized therein for removing a designated metal-ion from the liquid;
a barrier layer over the internal layer for permitting water to pass therethrough and for blocking microorganisms from passing therethrough; and
a sealed opening having a cap secured thereon for unsealing the container when the cap is removed.

40. **(New)** A container according to claim 39 wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent has a stability constant greater than 10^{20} with iron (III).